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OO RUEHBZ RUEHDU RUEHJO RUEHMR RUEHRN  
DE RUEHAN #0580 1640929  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 130929Z JUN 07  
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4956  
INFO RUCNSAD/SADC COLLECTIVE  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0921

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 000580

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/E, AF/FO, INR/AA, AND DRL  
PARIS FOR D'ELIA  
DEPT FOR DS/IP/AF/E - CKOLLMAR  
DEPT FOR DS/DSS/ITA - DROTHSTEIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV KDEM PHUM MA

SUBJECT: STUDENTS BURN MADAGASCAR CAMPUS AMPHITHEATRE

REF: ANTAN 435 AND PREVIOUS

**¶11. (U)** Police contacts report that an unknown number of students set fire to the amphitheatre on the campus at the University in Fianarantsoa, in south-central Madagascar, early June 13. The entire building and an adjoining registrar's office, where many students' files are stored, burned to the ground. Police suspect political opposition figures in this anti-Ravalomanana stronghold put the students up to the arson, but have no suspects yet.

**¶12. (SBU)** In recent months there has been unrest at campuses in many of Madagascar's coastal cities (reftels). Unpaid school fees, lack of electricity, and political discontent - in that order - have motivated students to protest, sometimes violently. This arson is a typical act of Malagasy political violence; a symbolic and destructive act of protest against authority.

SIBLEY